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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 50X1-HUM

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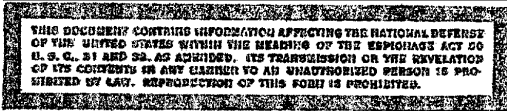
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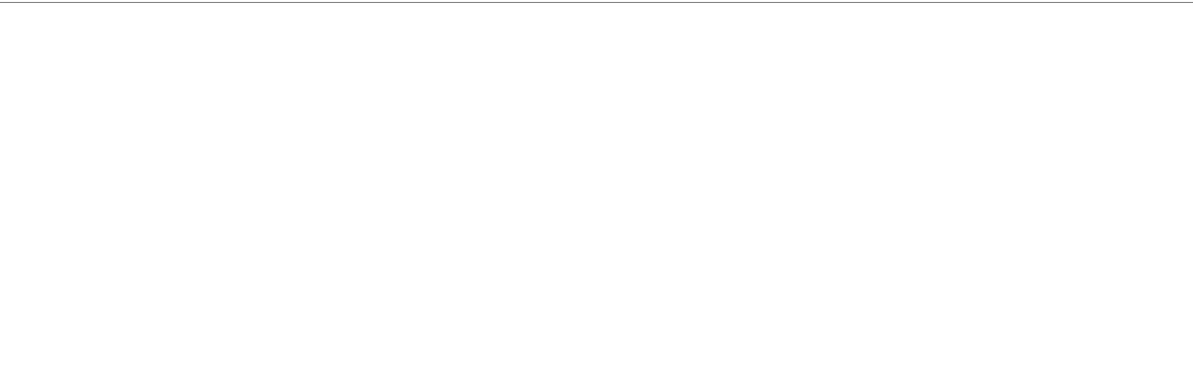
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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General.

1. Toward the end of March there was a sharp curtailment in field exercises by the Soviet occupation troops stationed in their winter garrisons. Local maneuvers and alert exercises were interrupted. Troop units received special allotments of POL and ammunition from division supply troops. The fact that the transfer of these supplies to consuming units was accomplished in two to five days in each instance is decisive in judging the combat readiness of Soviet occupation troops. Units in the various garrisons then commenced readying their vehicles, armor, and kitchens for field service. [redacted] division commanders and higher officers 50X1-HUM inspected the progress closely. Simultaneously the necessary rolling stock, especially flatcars, was placed at nearby sidings and ramps. It was noted that the number of flatcars provided tallied closely with the number and location of armored vehicles [redacted] After all the preparations the troops did not, however, move as suddenly and simultaneously as 50X1-HUM last year.

Eighth (Guards) Army, Weimar\*

2. The 21st (Guards) Mecz Div at Halle was alerted on the evening of 30 March 1951. Before daybreak all troops and tanks stationed in Halle moved out

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southward toward Merseburg. At that point they turned west. Schafstaedt and Helderungen were apparently the intermediate march objectives. On 2 April, in the vicinity of Kyffhauser, the columns turned south-southwest toward Gotha-Eisenach. The (69th) Mecz Rgt of the Div stationed at Leipzig arrived by road in the vicinity of Weissenfeld on 2 April 1951 as did part of the (20th Gds) Tr Rgt and the Rec Bn of the 57th Gds Rifle Div. From 2 to 4 April, during the time the Div changed direction toward the south, the Hq of the 21st Mecz Div and the (29th Gds Mtz) Rifle Corps normally garrisoned at Naumburg were located in the woods east of Freyburg about 15 kilometers north northwest of Naumburg. Besides Sig Units these Hqs were also accompanied by two planes, type PO 2, used as liaison planes. A clover field served as air base. The right wing of the 21st Mecz Div moved on 4 April out of Helderungen, the southern wing moved at the same time via Bad Koesen and Weimar toward the northern Kindl. On 6 April part of the (29th) Naumburg Corps occupied the summer training camp at Kindl. Up to that time no troops had been moved to their summer training areas by rail.

3. The (20th Gds Mtz Rifle) Corps in Gera moved all its armored, Rec, AA, and AT units between 8 and 13 April from Saalfeld-Kudolstadt and Plauen via railroad to Ohrdruf. This move caused considerable comment among the populace, many of whom reported that Soviet units from Czechoslovakia had moved into the southern part of Soviet-occupied Germany.

empty rail cars were held in readiness for the move. Until 15 April no units of the Div had been [ ] on the road.

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4. The significant feature of the moves described above lies in the readiness of the units to attack objectives located at a considerable distance from the garrisons. [ ] the mission assigned to the troops was solved in an excellent manner by the 21st (Gds) Mecz Div and parts of the 57th Gds Rifle Div. The units have demonstrated that their training status warrants a classification of "very satisfactory". The movement of complete units was achieved without notable delays. With adequate preparation the troops are capable of reaching the line of demarcation with all their equipment in no more than three days, carrying a seven-day supply of all categories (sic) This capability applies in general to all the Soviet troops on occupation duty in Germany.

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Third Shock Army Magdeburg.  
(79th Mtz Rifle) Corps Stendal.

5. Until 16 April the 207th Rifle Div (Mtz) was still in winter garrison. The 19th (Gds) Mecz Div stationed in vic Hillersleben had some troops in the summer training camp at Letzlinger Heide for some time. There is an increasing number of reports indicating the construction of a large encampment north of Hillersleben, west of the Elbe. Field exercises in regimental combat team strength are constantly in progress. The Army's (44th ?) Arty Brig and the (3rd ?) Arty Brig of the Stendal (79th) Corps have moved to Altengrabow. The following schedule [ ] From 2 to 4 April, the (44th ?) Arty Brig stationed in the AA Caserne Brandenburg/Havel; from 10 to 11 April the (3rd ?) Arty Brig of the (79th Mtz) Rifle Corps stationed in Burg; on 16 April the units closed with all their elements in the new area; the Arty Brig stationed in the Dreitscheid Caserne in Magdeburg moved on 10 and 16 April.

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(9th Mtz Rifle) Corps Schwerin.

6. Until 13 April there was no movement of these units. Advanced details of the 10th Mecz Div in Perleberg moved together with the (9th ?) Rec Bn from the same town on 15 April to the summer training area at Schweinrich, east of Wittstock. [ ] the 18th Mecz Div will occupy its old area in Schweinrich. The territory has already been closed off.

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1st Gds Mezz Army Dresden.

7. [ ] empty trains for troop transports [ ] 50X1-HUM

[ ] were in readiness at Riesa, Oschatz, Grimma, Bautzen, and Koenigsbrück by 1 April. The three Divs of that Army (8th Gds Mezz Div, 9th Tk Div and 11th Gds Tk Div) commenced movements to Koenigsbrück via road and railroad starting 8 April 1951. By 16 April 2/3 of the troops had arrived at the training areas. This move could be accomplished without much difficulty because some of the units assigned to the 1st Army had been moved to Koenigsbrück during the latter part of winter and others early in March.

3rd Gds Mezz Army Luckenwalde.

8. During the night 2-3 April the 91st Gds Rocket Launcher Rgt assigned to the 3rd Gds Mezz Army moved from their winter quarters at Trebbin to Jüterbog and thence to the range at Markendorf. By 20 April the 6th Gds Tk Div from Wittenberg and the 7th Gds Tk Div from Dessau-Rosslau had moved all their basic components via road and railroad to Markendorf. On 21 April the (207th) AA Regiment of the 7th Tk Div was observed entrained at Jüterbog en route from Dessau to Markendorf. The 11th Gds Mezz Div has not moved from the winter quarters at Jüterbog. This Div will most likely remain in garrison and only use adjacent maneuver areas for field exercises. The training area at Markendorf is fully utilized and occupied by the 22,000 men of the other divisions. All components of the 9th Mezz Div Cottbus, including those from Luebben and Spremberg, had arrived in the training area at Mochten-Boxberg, via railroad, by 14 April. Simultaneously the dumps at the Weisswasser railroad loop were replenished. On 17-18 April about 70 railroad tank cars with gasoline arrived. This dump will most likely supply the 9th Mezz Div during the summer training period.

4th Gds Mezz Army Eberswalde.

9. The divisions of that Army were stationed about the same as last year. The 6th Gds Mezz Div of Bernau and the 25th Tk Div Oranienburg commenced loading on 13 April. The advanced details had previously left for the range southwest of Templin (Cammernburg). On 16-19 April all tracks of the line Eberswalde-Freienwalde and Templin were reserved for exclusive use of military trains to facilitate the move of those two divisions and army units. The 7th Gds Mezz Div sent their Rec Bn and an advanced detail of about 500 men to Lieberose on 8 April. By 20 April Lieberose was occupied by about 1500 men without heavy weapons. The bulk of the Div was still in winter quarters in Fuerstenwalde and Frankfurt/Oder on 21 April. The 10th Gds Tk Div of Doeberitz has so far made no move at all. Only the (63rd) Gds Tk Rgt, previously located at Neuendorf Airfield, Brandenburg/Havel had moved to Krampnitz at the end of March. Neuendorf has since been occupied by air force units.

2nd Gds Mezz Army Fuerstenberg.

10. There have been no troop movements [ ] from this area. [ ] the units in Neustrelitz (9th Gds Tk Div) and Doeberitz (1st Mezz Div) continued with field exercises.

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1st Arty Corps Rathenow.

11. The 6th Arty Div of Rathenow with units in Brandenburg/Havel moved to Altengrabow as follows: 13-19 April the garrison of Rathenow and parts of Corps Hq; 15 April the garrison at Brandenburg/Havel. The 2nd AA Div and the 34th Arty Div were still in their Potsdam garrison on 17 April. The German railroad directorate at Dresden reserved rolling stock for

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transportation of the 5th Gds AA Div as early as 13 March. [redacted]

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Zossen-Muensdorf.

12. [redacted] the High Command of the Soviet Occupation Troops in Germany will move to Zossen-Muensdorf. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] the Commanding General of the Soviet troops in Germany, General Chuikov, inspected the installations early in April. The following day various truck columns left the area for undisclosed destinations. 50X1-HUM
- Only a large complement of officers, female auxiliary communications contingents, and a great many passenger cars remained there. [redacted]
- [redacted] archives group from Marishorst and another one from Babelsberg have moved into the area. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

Summary.

13. In general the Soviet divisions in Germany have occupied the same summer training areas as last year. The method and precision of movement demonstrated by the 8th Army indicates a high state of troop training. It proves once more that the units can operate completely independently for short periods of time. Their capability to move further west would be dependent only on their supply line. A weakness may result if newly arrived recruits are immediately posted to combat divisions. If the recruits are first stationed in winter garrisons, as they were two years ago, they will not impair the combat efficiency of the divisions; if they are sent directly to summer camps, and trained personnel is returned to Russia at the same ratio as replacements arrive, then there should be no danger until the fall of 1951. So far no appreciable amount of troops and supplies have arrived from Russia. Due to the needs of the troops in summer training an increase of such supplies can be anticipated from June on.

- \* Comment: German terminology often omits the numerical or exact designations of units. Where such designations could be supplied [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] they are added in parentheses. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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